and produces lush healthy foliage. Another benefit derived from fertilizer at this time of the year and that is to build up a supply of food to keep the plants going through winter. Most folks wait until winter is just around the corner before beginning to harden off their Hibiscus. We find that by starting in March better results are obtained. Start in March and feed every two weeks, very lightly as too much at one time will cause serious damage to your plants. After each application of fertilizer plants should be well watered. You should be thinking about protection from the cold in the southern parts of the state. A good idea is to bank the soil around the plants. You don't need to do any banking just yet but start to get your materials on hand and get your fertilizer program in order so that your plants will be in good condition when the cold hits later on.

WINTER - Australia - June to August

Do not cut your Hibiscus during winter months even if you encounter some die back, wait until spring. Do not fertilize until spring. A spray of Isotox, chlordane and zineb every two months will be suffieient. They are compatable to mix together. Be sure to remember to water your Hibiscus well before spraying or fertilizing at least least 3 to 8 hours before.

Cold causes dehydration, so when it is indicated, get out and water your plants before but not immediately after, low temperature. If your plants are defoliated then hold back on the water.

We hope we have given you enough information to grow bigger and better Hibiscus. If you have any problems at all, come in and see us. If your problems are bugs please bring in a sample of plant as this helps to ascertain the species.

When you purchase your plants, plant them with care. Prepare the position well. Hibiscus need an open sunny aspect with well drained soil. Do not

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plant them in amongst other plants where they have to compete for water, food and light. Preparation of the hole is most important. Dig the hole approximately twice the size of the container in which you purchased your plant. Fork the soil in the bottom of the hole well, but if you have heavy clayey soil, we do not recommend digging into the subsoil as this will result in water lying at the foot of the plant and during winter collar rot could result in the death of the plant. Now you have dug your hole, with the soil you have taken out mix one or two shovelfuls of rotted cow manure, fowl manure or mushroom mulch with it. Now cut the tin down either side with a pair of tin snips, do not resort to axes and spades to cut the tin. Put a shovelful of mixed soil back in the hole, and by bending the tin back lift the plant gently from the tin and place it in position in the hole. Judge it so as you plant it the same depth as it was in the container, a little deeper doesn't matter but don't plant it any higher. Now fill in around the roots with the rest of the mixed soil and press lightly. Leave a cup around the base of the plant to prevent water running away. After you have done all this water thoroughly and keep the plant nice and moist the following week. Do not put fertilizer in the hole when planting, this could prove fatal. After the plant has established itself and is growing well then fertilizer may be added. This is usually about three weeks after planting, depending on the season. Hibiscus can be planted all the year round out of containers as long as they are well grown.

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When using the above for your cultural information be sure to remember that you will have to switch months.

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If your Seed Pod came late and you are wondering why this may expalin it. Mr. & Mrs. Monroe spent a very wonderful weekend with the D. U. Donaldson's in Vero Beach. They attended the Indian River chapter meeting on February 7th, and had a wonderful time with a grand group of people.